To: <u>E-OHPSCA2713.EBSA</u>

**Subject:** Thank you for supporting birth control access for all women

**Date:** Wednesday, August 03, 2011 8:31:08 AM

Dear Kathleen Sebelius, Secretary of Health & Human Services,

I commend the Department of Health & Human Services' landmark decision requiring health insurers to cover the full cost of contraception, with no co-pay, beginning in August 2012.

This policy places a much-needed importance on women's health that is too-often not a priority in health care policy. Birth control is a critical part of preventive care, and making contraception available to all women, regardless of their insurance or ability to pay for it, will significantly reduce long-term health care costs associated with unplanned pregnancies.

I wish this rule could be emplimented sooner because my insurer pays nothing toward my birth control. Nevertheless, later is always better than never.

Thank you for prioritizing women's basic health care needs.

Sincerely,

L. Bunch